THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub
_B1_

1.   A method for assessing the security posture of a network comprising the steps of:

creating a system object model database representing a network, wherein the system object model

5   database supports the information data requirements of disparate network vulnerability analysis programs;

exporting the system object model database of the network to the disparate network vulnerability/risk analysis programs;

10   analyzing the network with each network vulnerability analysis program to produce data results from each program; and

correlating the data results of the network vulnerability analysis programs to determine the

15   security posture of the network.

2.   A method according to Claim 1, and further comprising the step of importing the system object model database to the network vulnerability analysis programs via an integrated application

5   programming interface.

3.   A method according to Claim 1, and further comprising the step of modeling the network as a map on a graphical user interface.

4.   A method according to Claim 1, and further comprising the step of establishing a class hierarchy to define components of the network vulnerability analysis programs that share common data

5   and programming traits.

5.   A method according to Claim 1, and further comprising the step of correlating the data

results of the network vulnerability analysis programs
using fuzzy logic processing.

6. A method according to Claim 1, and
further comprising the step of running the network
vulnerability assessment/risk analysis programs to
obtain data results pertaining to network system
5 details, network topologies, node level vulnerabilities
and network level vulnerabilities.

7. A method for assessing the security
posture of a network comprising the steps of:
creating a system object model database
representing a network, wherein the system object model
5 database supports the information data requirements of
network vulnerability/risk analysis programs;
importing the system object model database of
the network to the network vulnerability analysis
programs through filters associated with each
10 respective network vulnerability analysis programs to
export only the data required by a respective network
vulnerability analysis program; and
analyzing the network with each network
vulnerability analysis program to produce data results
15 from each program; and
correlating the data results of the network
vulnerability analysis programs to determine the
security posture of the network.

8. A method according to Claim 7, and
further comprising the step of exporting the system
object model database to the network vulnerability
assessment/risk analysis programs via an integrated
5 application programming interface.

9.   A method according to Claim 7, and further comprising the step of modeling the network as a map on a graphical user interface.

10.   A method according to Claim 7, and further comprising the step of establishing a class hierarchy to define components of the network vulnerability analysis programs that share common data
5   and programming traits.

11.   A method according to Claim 7, and further comprising the step of correlating the data results of the network vulnerability analysis programs using fuzzy logic processing.

12.   A method according to Claim 7, and further comprising the step of running the network vulnerability analysis programs to obtain data results pertaining to network system details, network
5   topologies, node level vulnerabilities and network level vulnerabilities.

13.   A computer program that resides on a medium that can be read by a program, wherein the computer program comprises instructions to cause a computer to create a system object model database
5   representing a network, wherein the system object model database supports the information data requirements of disparate network vulnerability analysis programs that analyze discrete network portions;
        export the system object model database of
10   the network to the network vulnerability analysis programs;
        analyze the network with each network vulnerability/risk analysis program to produce data results from each program; and

15   correlate the data results of the network
vulnerability analysis programs to determine the
security posture of the network.

14.   A computer program according to Claim
13, and further comprising instructions for displaying
an integrated application programming interface, and
exporting the system object model database to the
5   network vulnerability analysis programs via the
integrated application programming interface.

15.   A computer program according to Claim
13, and further comprising instructions for modeling
the network as a map on a graphical user interface.

16.   A computer program according to Claim
13, and further comprising instructions for
establishing a class hierarchy to define components of
the network vulnerability analysis programs that share
5   common data and programming traits.

17.   A computer program according to Claim
13, and further comprising instructions for correlating
the data results of the network vulnerability analysis
programs using fuzzy logic processing.

18.   A computer program according to Claim
13, and further comprising instructions for running the
network vulnerability analysis programs to obtain data
results that pertain to network system details, network
5   topologies, node level vulnerabilities and network
level vulnerabilities.

19.   A computer program that resides on a
medium that can be read by a program, wherein the
computer program comprises instructions to cause a
computer to create a system object model database

5 representing a network, wherein the system object model
database supports the information data requirements of
disparate network vulnerability analysis programs that
analyze discrete network portions;

import the system object model database of
10 the network to the network vulnerability analysis
programs through filters associated with each
respective network vulnerability analysis program so as
to export only the data required by the respective
network vulnerability analysis program;
15 analyze the network with each network
vulnerability analysis program to produce data results
from each program; and
correlate the data results of the network
vulnerability analysis programs to determine the
20 security posture of the network.

20. A computer program according to Claim
19, and further comprising instructions for displaying
an integrated application programming interface, and
exporting the system object model database to the
5 network vulnerability analysis programs via the
integrated application programming interface.

21. A computer program according to Claim
19, and further comprising instructions for modeling
the network as a map on a graphical user interface.

22. A computer program according to Claim
19, and further comprising instructions for
establishing a class hierarchy to define components of
the network vulnerability analysis programs that share
5 common data and programming traits.

23. A computer program according to Claim
19, and further comprising instructions for correlating

the data results of the disparate network vulnerability analysis programs using fuzzy logic processing.

24.   A computer program according to Claim 19, and further comprising instructions for running the network vulnerability analysis programs to obtain data results that pertain to network system details, network
5   topologies, node level vulnerabilities and network level vulnerabilities.

25.   A data processing system for assessing the security vulnerability of a network comprising:
a plurality of disparate network vulnerability/risk analysis programs used for analyzing
5   a network;
a system object model database that represents the network to be analyzed, wherein the system object model database supports the information data requirements of the network vulnerability/risk
10   analysis programs;
an applications programming interface for exporting the system object model database of the network to the network vulnerability/risk analysis programs; and
15   a processor for correlating the data results obtained from each network vulnerability analysis program after analyzing the network to determine the security posture of the network.

26.   A data processing system according to Claim 25, wherein the applications programming interface for importing the system object model database comprises a graphical user interface.

27.   A data processing system according to Claim 25, and further comprising a graphical user interface that models the network as a map.

28. A data processing system according to Claim 25, and further comprising a graphical user interface for displaying the security posture of the network.

29. A data processing system according to Claim 25, wherein said database further comprises an object oriented class hierarchy to define components of the network vulnerability analysis programs that share
5   common data and programming traits.

30. A data processing system according to Claim 25, wherein said processor comprises a fuzzy logic processor.

31. A data processing system for assessing the security vulnerability of a network comprising:
a plurality of disparate network vulnerability/risk analysis programs used for analyzing
5   a network;
a system object model database that represents the network to be analyzed, wherein the system object model database supports the information data requirements of each network vulnerability
10 analysis program;
an applications programming interface for exporting the system object model database of the network to the disparate network vulnerability analysis programs;
15   a filter associated with the applications programming interface and each respective network vulnerability analysis program for filtering the system object model database and exporting only the required data requirements to each network vulnerability
20 analysis program; and
a processor for correlating the data results obtained from each network vulnerability analysis

program after analyzing the network to determine the
security posture of the network.

32.   A data processing system according to
Claim 31, wherein the applications programming
interface for importing the system object model
database to comprises a graphical user interface.

33.   A data processing system according to
Claim 31, and further comprising a graphical user
interface that models the network as a map.

34.   A data processing system according to
Claim 31, and further comprising a graphical user
interface for displaying the vulnerability posture of
the network.

35.   A data processing system according to
Claim 31, wherein said database further comprises an
object oriented class hierarchy to define components of
the network vulnerability analysis programs that share
common data and programming traits.

36.   A data processing system according to
Claim 31, wherein said processor comprises a fuzzy
logic processor.